



Allergy & Asthma Network

Mothers of Asthmatics

February 6, 2009

Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Senate Bill 755

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA), I thank you for your taking steps to protect schoolchildren in Connecticut living with asthma and anaphylaxis, potentially life-threatening diseases.

AANMA is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating suffering and death due to asthma, allergies, food allergies and related conditions. With a diverse constituency representing children, adolescents and adults living with asthma and allergies, their families and healthcare providers, AANMA's efforts focus on education, advocacy and community outreach.

As patient advocates we applaud Senate Bill 755, which would allow students to carry and self-administer life-saving prescribed asthma and anaphylaxis medications.

Breathing is a right, not a privilege. Physicians prescribe lifesaving asthma and anaphylaxis medications to schoolchildren and, with parental support, train them how to use these medications to treat and prevent life-threatening emergencies. Tragically, inconsistent school policies regarding student access to medications have led to student deaths across the nation. SB755 sponsors have taken steps to protect students' rights and prevent such tragedies in Connecticut.

This bill creates a uniform policy protecting students in all Connecticut schools, enabling students to focus on their education rather than life-threatening health conditions. Connecticut would join the 47 other states that protect these vital student rights.

We urge you to pass this legislation without any restrictive amendments that would interfere with the goal of the legislation - to protect a student's rights to breathe.

Please feel free to contact me at 800-878-4403 x103 or sfwalker@aanma.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Fusco-Walker
Director Patient Advocacy